

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1946

Tribute To "Agricola"

Speaking of culture and cultural courses for the community, one is reminded of the weekly articles this newspaper has been privileged to publish over a long period of years from the gifted pen of "Agricola," which is the nom de plume of Mr. Blythe Hurst, Sr., of Brackley Beach, who has probably contributed more to the cause discussed at last night's public meeting than any other individual in this Province.

No subject of cultural or scientific interest is alien to Agricola's columns: history, poetry, folklore, mythology, music, drama, botany, horticulture, ornithology, archaeology, astronomy—he is at home in every field, and writes with equal facility about a Gilbert and Sullivan opera, a new star cluster, Island weather lore, family name origins, or some rare species of bird, insect or plant which he has just identified for an inquiring correspondent.

"Agricola's" literary style is the fruit of long familiarity with the Classics, and affords an education in itself in the art of writing felicitously. He also writes authoritatively, as in his "Flowering Plants and Ferns of Prince Edward Island"—several of them discovered by himself and enumerated in his Guardian articles—which was published in 1933 by the Royal Canadian Institute and remains the standard work on this subject.

Tributes to "Agricola" have been received from many sources, including top-ranking educationists in Ontario and other parts of Canada and the United States. No one has numbered the thousands of Guardian readers whose interest in cultural subjects he has stimulated in the past three decades and more since he started his "News Notes"; but their name must be legion.

New Zealand Liquor Issue

Electors in New Zealand voted recently on the issue of state control of the liquor traffic as recommended by a royal commission last September in the cases of breweries, but the vote was not decisive. Nearly half a million voters still prefer the existing licensing system despite the defects in it stressed by the royal commission. About 234,000 voters demanded prohibition, and while only 187,000 favored state ownership and control, this figure showed a rise of 63,000 while the others declined. The government, on this division of opinion, must now do the best it can to implement the recommendations made to it and the task will not be easy. It is unlikely to nationalize the liquor trade, but if the present trend in the voting continues it may be emboldened to do so, being a Labor government. Incidentally, what is known as the Carlisle plan, established in England during the First Great War and based on trust control of hotels without profits from liquor, has spread to New Zealand and is now on trial at Invercargill.

Must Get The Grain

There is a direct connection between Food Minister Strachey's warning to Britons that their food rations might be reduced and the gathering in Ottawa last week of agricultural ministers and officials from across the Dominion. Mr. Strachey said that some of the proposed cut was the result of reduced bacon supplies from Canada while the meeting was searching for ways and means of increasing supplies next year. Says the Ottawa Journal in this connection:

This year Canada will not meet its bacon, cheese or egg contracts with the United Kingdom. The reduction in pork shipments was greatest, and of most concern to Britain. From a peak bacon export of 616 million pounds in the 1943-45 period we drop to about 284 million pounds this year. The domestic market will get about 495 million pounds. Shipments of cheese dropped about 40 million pounds and fewer eggs were sent over.

All this was known when the Agricultural Conference met in Ottawa. The problem facing the meeting was to find some means of stopping the downward trend and so direct Canadian farmers that the best balance possible between domestic food needs and our export contracts would be reached next season. The prevailing opinion was that a threatened shortage of feed grains was the keystone of the problem, that assurance of adequate feed supplies next year was the first requirement.

The result was that recommendations were made for acreage bonuses for barley, and possibly rye, although Eastern representatives to the conference came out strongly for higher prices for dairy products, butter in particular. Agriculture Minister Gardiner and his officials held to the opinion that it would be useless to advocate production of more milk, pork or eggs, if the necessary feed was not forthcoming. It was felt that a price incentive alone for Eastern farmers would prove useless unless feed could be guaranteed.

That put the problem squarely up to Prairie farmers, who have been indulging in a rather erratic production course in recent years. They went into hogs in a big way and gave Canada the greatest production this country has ever known. Then when wheat surpluses disappeared and long-term contracts were made with Britain the swing was back to wheat—away

from pork and dairy products. Less coarse grains was another result. Now the hope is that wheat production can be stabilized for several years at 24 million acres and, likely through a price incentive, that there will be a return to more barley and other coarse grains.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It seems ridiculous to put such a question; all the same, "have you begun your Christmas shopping?" Delays are dangerous.

It is essential in any telephone system worth while, that central be possible of being contacted instantly. Delay, as in the case of the Davis & Fraser fire, recently, may mean death and disaster.

As most of the possible successors of Federal captain King have left the sinking ship, endeavours are now being made to "freeze" what is left in positions, whether or not they so desire them.

What a poor alibi the Public Works Department have for depriving the residents of East Point of their daily mail service. Evidently the retirement of Mr. MacMillan has not been long in making itself felt.

Just why should not Prince of Wales College have an extra day Christmas vacation in order to avoid students leaving their homes on New Year's day, a national and long established family holiday? The Education Department seems lacking in vision.

Dr. Samuel Johnson, man of letters, died this date 1784; after failing as a schoolmaster Johnson started in journalism, becoming a Parliamentary reporter; he started his Dictionary of the English Language in 1747; then followed The Rambler in 1749, and a succession of minor publications. In 1763 began his association with Boswell, which proved the best of his life, as it led to the Journey to the Western Islands, and the Lives of the Poets (1781) his greatest work: "A wise Tory and a wise Whig, I believe, will agree. Their principles are the same, though their modes of thinking are different."

Mr. John D. Rockefeller Jr. is following in the footsteps of his millionaire father in public munificence. The late "John D." the promoter of the first great monopolist trust which endeavoured to crush out all competitors, gave away during his life time for benevolent, educational and health purposes, more millions of dollars, (estimated at more than half-a-billion), than a million men could earn in their lifetime. To give eight-and-a-half million dollars to buy a site for a home for the United Nations looks like wholesale corruption to induce the powers that be to forsake Philadelphia and San Francisco. Why did he not do as our local philanthropist, Mr. R. L. Cotton, did, and hand the money over to the Government of the State of New York, for the purpose of beautifying and improving conditions generally?

"One Hundred Hymns and Sacred Lyrics" is the title of a fine selection of religious verses by Mr. William Edgar Enman, formerly of Charlottetown and now residing in Halifax. Mr. Enman is a brother of Mr. J. J. Enman, editor of the Summerside Journal. He has had the distinction of having two of his hymns included in the Hymn Book of the Church of England in Canada and all his work is marked by deep devotional sentiment. The booklet is attractively printed and carries a brief foreword by the Rt. Rev. G. F. Kingston, Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia. Bishop Kingston expresses the hope that Mr. Enman's poetry may be widely read and appreciated, and in this The Guardian joins most sincerely.

Fatalities are due to all sorts of unfortunate occurrences. A magpie was the cause of the death of a boy aged 13 in Macleay district hospital after a long fight by the doctors, writes a Sydney Correspondent. The magpie attacked the boy, inflicting serious head injuries. The doctors used abnormal quantities of antitetanus serum, and sent urgent calls to Maitland, Warath, Newcastle, and other southern towns for more supplies. In desperation the doctors then called the northern towns, and discovered the combined supplies of Grafton and Lismore to be sufficient. Special aeroplanes were chartered, but a hitch prevented the Lismore aeroplane from making the journey and that supply was sent by train. The Grafton aeroplane got through with 100,000 units of serum, but the boy died. The magpie is a protected bird, but is notorious for its vicious attacks on anybody nearing the nest. Recently in the Kempsey district a boy ran round the school yard with a magpie hanging on to his ear.

An appeal to Canadians for ends and pieces of material comes here from the clothing depot of the Canadian Save the Children Fund at 111 Maitland Street, Toronto. Thousands of European women have expressed their wish to begin making clothes for their children, and curtains and other articles to improve their homes. Voluntary workers at the Canadian Save the Children Fund clothing depot, who are members of the Toronto Women's Division of the Fund, are trying to answer this need through the help of Canadian housewives. End pieces of flannellette for making layettes and night clothes; serge and tweeds for making boys suits and warm winter coats; cotton in bright colors and designs for making curtains and brightening up sad homes; and all kinds of other material can be used for many purposes. Used socks are especially useful in making afghans, while untraveller or unkitt wool help to make badly-needed socks and sweaters. Discarded felt hats are regarded as precious in European countries today—not as hats, but as material for baby shoes and those of invalids.

Notes By The Way

Simpler income tax forms are again being promised. Never mind the forms; let's have a simpler income tax.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Elected, or defeated, Miss Elizabeth Sheldon breaks new ground as a candidate for election to the Brookville town council. We have had municipal elections since 1892 and she is the first of her sex to challenge man's exclusive position in local politics.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

If history should eventually recall that democracy was carried to Japan not by General MacArthur but by King Features' and George McManus' "Bringing Up Father," it would be ironic. Fox Jigger's adventures are the first comic strip adventures to appear daily in one of the one-page Japanese newspapers. The Tokyo Yomiuri has been using strip with the original balloons and an English lesson underneath. Because the newspaper shortage really is no joke, Yomiuri prints half a strip a day.—Editor and Publisher.

There should be stricter tests of drivers before permits to operate an automobile are issued. One has to show good cause to have a permit to carry a revolver. Fox Jigger's adventures are the first comic strip adventures to appear daily in one of the one-page Japanese newspapers. The Tokyo Yomiuri has been using strip with the original balloons and an English lesson underneath. Because the newspaper shortage really is no joke, Yomiuri prints half a strip a day.—Editor and Publisher.

The assurances of the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources that there is "no reason to doubt" the discovery of lignite coal deposits in Northern Manitoba near Churchill does not provide any basis for estimating their value to this Province or to Western Canada. However, there are two factors which may enter into that calculation. One is that of the ease of mining. The report suggests that the coal is on or near the surface and consequently may be extracted by strip mining, a much cheaper method than sinking shafts and doing underground work. The other is that such coal deposits, if their development is found to be commercially sound, will provide return traffic on the Hudson Bay Railway and thereby afford an addition to the revenues of that line.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Positive action is needed to keep young Canadians of ability on the job in Canada. It is not enough to count the numbers going over the line for bigger jobs and bigger money and to wring our hands about it. Accepting the basic argument that uncapping salary ceilings and easing income taxes will go a long way toward plugging the drain, there still remain other important and necessary ways to keep Canadian brains in Canada. The long-standing argument that bigger money and lower taxes will lure away our best brains is counteracted by higher living costs won't turn the trick unaided. The thing has to be brought down to earth, examined by industry and job by job. That's the only way a positive cure can be worked. Wax in the ears and chains to the mast are old stuff. This is a 20th century siren we're up against.—Toronto Financial Post.

It is a shock to learn from a meteorologist that an ideal outdoor climate would call for a range of temperature of only two degrees in this climate. David Brunst, an eminent British authority, recently said that such a climate would permit a man to walk at three miles an hour in bright sunshine without sweating, and that he could stand in the shade doing light work without loss of body heat. The upper limit would be sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit and the lower limit sixty-six degrees. Many days of the year in this climate provide at least a few hours of this restricted range of temperature, but they are recognized as ideal only because of the hours and days when the mercury drops from that restricted range of two degrees. In fact, the ideal climate, from the point of view of the man who must live in it, requires some fifty or fifty-five degrees of range to set off those two degrees in the upper sixties to the gems that they are. Without extremes of climate, what is now considered ideal might become merely monotonous.—New York Sun.

Throughout discussions in and out of committee rooms, Russia has borne the brunt of the attacks which have been levelled principally by small countries. The barrage against Russia, stemming from the United Nations, showing that she has pulled a veto out of its pocket, nine times in less than a year to block Security Council resolutions favored by at least seven of the 11 members.

France was associated with Russia on one veto; Great Britain, the United States and China have never used it. Russia has stood its ground.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

"THE GARDEN OF AMERICA" "I promised your Lordship some further accounts of the Island this morning and was intending to do so, but I have been so busy with my garden, and in gardening, my expectations are fully answered, and in many surpassed, such as the raising of Indian corn, which I have done year myself, and very good too, though it was not planted by more than a month so early as it ought to have been. In every other part of America where I have been, grain in general deteriorates, especially oats and barley; but here I have raised both this year to the full as good as the seed sown, which was the best I could purchase in London. The oats were of the Polish kind, as I judged our summer might resemble theirs in Poland, more than that of England, and believe we would be right if we used more of the continental seeds of Europe than we do. I never met with any heard of such an increase of potatoes as I was told of yesterday by two servants belonging to Captain Holland. One of them planted six bushels, and has from them raised two hundred bushels; the other had a hundred and sixty bushels from three. This they offered to take their oath of. Wheat has not had a fair trial yet, but I have every reason to suppose it will do as good as anywhere; and as to garden stuff, there is no country produces better. In short, my Lord, if only the proprietors will exert themselves, the Island will, in a short time, be the Garden of America."

—Governor Patterson, Oct. 15, 1771, writing to Lord Hillsborough, North Rhine-Westphalia district of the British empire. British authorities

The Poets Corner

THE VETERANS ASK . . . What have we done for this, our only crime? Was to love life, and our fellow-men? Now we die or serve sentence for all time? Who will unteach bloodlust to us again? How shall our memory blot out the hate? Lashed on our hearts forever is a pain. No love can soothe, no peace eradicate. Our hearts which had been ever springing life. Spring no more! What surgeon's knife? Can't tear corrosive cancer from our youth? Ah! rather would they learn our bodies lie Mangled and still on some Italian plain. Than watch the daily horrors in our eye Seeking oblivion from our mental pain. —William D. DeCoste, Canadian Army, (Formerly of Charlottetown). Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Washington Spotlight

By CLYDE BLACKBURN Canadian Press Staff Writer Washington

When John L. Lewis dramatically called off the soft coal strike he proved once again what most Americans now will promptly forget, that he holds and wields the power of economic life and death over the United States. He was able effectively to stifle the industry and public services of the United States by a word to his soft coal miners. And when the situation was approaching the crisis, another gesture from Lewis ended it and brought relief to a shivering, apprehensive nation.

Lewis never revealed what single circumstance prompted him to retreat. Probably it was a combination of circumstances but mainly the fact that in imperiling the economic life and physical well-being of the public he was hitting the time for the miners and inviting destruction of his union and his own powerful position.

But the lesson for Americans is that in ending the strike no less than in precipitating it, Lewis demonstrated the extraordinary power he holds and does not hesitate to use.

That probably will be forgotten quickly by the relieved rank and file but not by the anti-labor union members of the Senate and House of Representatives. It would seem certain that a flock of anti-labor measures will be brought into the new Congress opening Jan. 2 and that the President in his message to Congress will recommend legislation designed to remove from the hands of labor leaders such absolute power as that exercised by John L. Lewis.

One direct result of the soft coal incident was a slight boost to President Truman's prestige. The President handed Lewis and the miners over to the courts and remained absolutely silent until pressure finally induced him to announce a radio appeal to the miners. But before the time for his speech his "silent treatment" had brought results and the Lewis retreat made his appeal unnecessary.

The Veto

(By Larry Hauck, Associated Press.) The veto rears its head every time the United Nations debates an important issue.

This has been true in the long discussions on arms reduction, troop inventories and all the other problems considered so important to the future of mankind. This word veto—a Latin term which is the same in English, Spanish, Russian and French—concerns the special voting right given the five great powers in the Security Council through authorization for any of them to block a major decision by merely raising a hand.

In the final days of the current assembly session—perhaps today—the United Nations will act on a proposal aimed to curb the use of the veto.

However, the final resolution which emerged from committee for floor debate was so watered down by revisions and amendments that it did little more than call attention to opposition to the special voting privilege.

Throughout discussions in and out of committee rooms, Russia has borne the brunt of the attacks which have been levelled principally by small countries. The barrage against Russia, stemming from the United Nations, showing that she has pulled a veto out of its pocket, nine times in less than a year to block Security Council resolutions favored by at least seven of the 11 members.

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The Ruhr Today

(By Ross Munro Canadian Press Staff Writer)

Germany in the Ruhr shuffle through a miserable day-to-day existence, facing a cold winter in bombed-out houses, air-raid bunkers or cellars, on rations just enough to keep them from starvation, and with meagre, rapidly-wearing clothing.

Housing conditions are frightful. In cities such as Dusseldorf, Dülmen and Wuppertal allied bombers left them, except that rubble has been piled up. Essen remains one continuous ruin. In this devastation, families group together to share the least-usable houses, patching them as best they can with tarpaulins and wood and brick from other buildings. Three or four families are packed in most medium-sized houses. Even top German officials have little comfort. The burghomaster of Dusseldorf lives with his wife and two children in a tiny four-room flat on the ground floor of a partially-wrecked apartment block. Housing has become more complicated than ever in Dusseldorf now that the city is capital of the new North Rhine-Westphalia district of the British zone. British authorities



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against any elimination or even modification. The other four powers have indicated willingness from time to time for some limitations on its use but none has even been very specific. Apparently no one of the five favored countries would deny that every one of these nations wants the veto kept in the charter.

Thus, while Great Britain, the United States, China and France join lightly in the attacks on Russia, they are prepared to resist just as strongly as Russia any attempt to take away the power.

CANBERRA, Australia — (CP)—Private Australian motorists will get more gasoline this month. The ration will be increased to the British scale, which gives about 270 miles a month. Commercial users will receive an increase of up to six gallons a month.

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